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Dear Senator/Representative:

As you determine your appropriations priorities for the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15), the American Lung Association asks that your requests include programs that will promote lung health and work to reduce lung disease, the third leading cause of death in the United States.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. The Lung Association supports continued investments in public health in order to reduce the burden of lung disease in the U.S.

The American Lung Association strongly encourages you to oppose all policy riders on appropriations bills and to support the attached funding recommendations. These funding recommendations are even more important this year, as further reductions in spending could have catastrophic impacts to our nation's health.

The American Lung Association is grateful for your support. Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Harold Wimmer
National President and CEO

American Lung Association Appropriations Priorities

Fiscal Year 2015

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

FY15 L-HHS Appropriations Priorities

- **Provide at least \$28 million for CDC's National Asthma Control Program (NACP)**

It is estimated that more than 25 million Americans currently have asthma, of whom 7 million are children. The NACP tracks asthma prevalence, promotes asthma control and prevention and builds capacity in state programs. This program has been highly effective: the rate of asthma has increased, yet asthma mortality and morbidity rates have decreased. Restoring some of the recent funding cuts to the National Asthma Control Program will be critical to ensuring the program's continued success in educating patients on asthma management in and further reducing unnecessary asthma-related deaths as well as healthcare costs.

- **Provide at least \$250 million for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Office of Smoking and Health (OSH)**

The American Lung Association supports at least \$250 million for the Office of Smoking and Health at CDC. OSH is the lead federal agency for tobacco prevention and control and created the "Tips from Former Smokers" Campaign, which has prompted millions of smokers to try to quit and over a hundred thousand to quit for good. The latest data from CDC shows that smoking kills almost a half a million Americans each year and costs the U.S. almost \$300 billion annually in healthcare costs and lost productivity. Tobacco cessation and prevention activities is among the most effective and cost-effective investments in disease prevention.

- **Provide at least \$10 million for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Climate and Health initiative.** CDC's Climate and Health initiative identifies the locations and people most at risk and prepares communities to address the health effects of climate change including worsening air pollution; diseases that emerge in new areas; stronger and longer heat waves; more frequent and severe droughts. Additionally, CDC provides health expertise to cities and states during long-term weather events, such as droughts and heat waves, which saves lives and prevents illness. As climate-related challenges intensify, CDC must have increased resources to meet the challenges.

- **Provide at least \$32 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

Research supported by NIH has been instrumental in the fight to identify the causes of and effective treatments for lung diseases. The American Lung Association supports increased funding for NIH research on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cures for tobacco use and all lung diseases including lung cancer, asthma, COPD and tuberculosis. Lung cancer remains the leading cancer killer in the United States and while deaths among men have plateaued, the number is still rising among women.

- **Preserve the Prevention and Public Health Fund as mandated by the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act***

The Prevention and Public Health Fund is crucial in financing proven and effective public health and wellness programs. Already the Prevention and Public Health Fund is helping to reduce tobacco use, the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, and has been used to finance the successful "Tips from Former Smokers." The Fund is also assisting states in monitoring outbreaks of infectious diseases such as influenza, and is being used to prevent and treat diseases, including COPD, lung cancer and asthma. The American Lung Association supports full funding the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

American Lung Association Appropriations Priorities

Fiscal Year 2015

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

FY15 Interior-Environment Appropriations Priorities

Support U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Programs to Address Climate and Improve Air Quality

The American Lung Association urges the Committee to help ensure that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the necessary resources to protect the public from the health threats of air pollution, and to defend the Clean Air Act as a key public health safeguard, especially for populations most at risk, including those with asthma and other lung diseases, children, older adults and people with heart disease and diabetes—from the dangers of airborne pollutants, including the impacts of carbon dioxide pollution.

In addition to the specific requests below, we urge Congress to reject any effort to delay or weaken EPA authority to address air pollution, including carbon pollution from power plants.

- **Provide at least \$278 million for State and Local Air Quality Management Grants to States**
State and local air pollution agencies need more funding, not less, to ensure proper implementation of the Clean Air Act and protection of the public. State agencies are on the front lines of vital efforts to improve air quality and protect public health, yet they are perennially underfunded. This must change in order to secure the benefits promised by Clean Air Act protections.
- **Provide at least \$130 million for EPA's Compliance Monitoring & \$270 million for Enforcement**
To protect public health, EPA must ensure that air pollution standards and requirements are met. Thus EPA must have the ability and funding needed to reduce non-compliance, as well as enforce penalties for violations. EPA must also be prepared to respond to civil enforcement actions authorized by the Clean Air Act.
- **Provide at least \$101.9 million for the EPA Federal Vehicle Fuels Standards and Certifications Programs**
It is critically important to fully fund the budget for EPA's Federal Vehicle Fuels Standards and Certifications Programs, particularly to improve the effectiveness of the certification and compliance testing programs in the face of increasing demand, more challenging oversight requirements, and the increasing diversity of technologies. Currently, EPA conducts very limited testing of small imported engines but a high fraction of these engines fail the test. Additional resources are needed to improve testing and compliance for this important program to protect public health.
- **Provide at least \$30 million for the Diesel Emissions Reductions Program**
Twenty million old diesel engines are in use today that pollute communities and threaten workers. Immense opportunities remain to reduce diesel emissions through the DERA program. Please provide at least \$30 million in FY 2015.
- **Provide at least \$8 million for the Radon Programs and State Indoor Radon Grants**
Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, and the EPA's State Indoor Radon Grants are the only nationwide program that helps prevent exposure to it. States and tribes depend on this program as well as technical assistance through the Radon Programs to educate the public and fight this deadly carcinogen. EPA warns that it may not meet the 2015 goal of preventing 1,460 premature lung cancer deaths annually without sufficient funding for these programs. Please do not let that happen.